United Nations S/2016/850

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring the following to your attention.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deeply regrets the reported attack against the community hall of Al-Salah al-kubra in Sana'a, Yemen. We wish to reiterate our full respect for, commitment to and compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law and reaffirm that we will continue to ensure that all possible measures are taken to protect all civilians and civilian objects in Yemen and take the corrective and appropriate measures necessary to ensure accountability, including the release of the results of the ongoing investigation into this incident in the near future.

In this regard, I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued by the coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen (see annex). The statement includes the following points:

(a) The coalition expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the wounded in the regrettable and tragic incident that occurred in Sana'a on 8 October 2016 as a result of the ongoing hostilities in the aftermath of the militia's seizure of power in September 2014;

(b) The coalition reaffirmed that its forces followed strict and clear rules of engagement that prohibit the targeting of any civilians and civilian objects and that they take all possible measures to prevent exposing civilians to any danger;

(c) The coalition will conduct an immediate investigation and provide the investigation team with all the data and information related to the military operations that were conducted during the day of the incident, including in the area of the incident and all the areas that surround it.

We wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the coalition will spare no effort to work diligently towards restoring peace and stability and to reach a sustainable political solution to the conflict in Yemen, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. We reiterate our support to the important work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to reach a comprehensive agreement to end the conflict in Yemen, in accordance with the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism

and the National Dialogue Conference Outcomes and pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of the coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen

Riyadh, 8 October 2016

The high command of the forces of the coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen emphasizes that it does not target civilian areas and makes every effort to avoid endangering civilians.

The high command of the forces of the coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen expresses its condolences and sympathy to the families of those killed and injured in the regrettable and distressing incident that took place in Sana'a today, Saturday 8 October 2016, in the course of combat operations that have been ongoing since a coup was perpetrated there in September 2014.

Coalition forces high command emphasizes that its forces have clear and explicit instructions to refrain from targeting civilian areas and to make every effort to avoid endangering civilians. Coalition forces high command will conduct an immediate investigation. The investigating team will benefit from the expertise of the Americans and will draw on the lessons learned from similar investigations.

The investigating team will be given all of the information at the disposal of coalition forces with regard to the military operations that were carried out on that date in the area of the incident and surrounding areas. Its findings will be announced immediately once the investigation is complete.

United Nations S/2016/851

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif, addressed to you, on the horrific air strikes by the Saudi jet fighters on a funeral hall packed with thousands of mourners in Sana'a (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you to express the shock and indignation of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the tragic and horrific air strikes by the Saudi jet fighters on a funeral hall packed with thousands of mourners in Sana'a. So far, a cautious figure by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick, has put the death and injury toll at more than 640 people. This horrendous and heinous attack, which has once more displayed an utter disregard for human life by the aggressors against the Yemeni people, is another single incident out of thousands of similar ones in the past 18 months that have killed or permanently maimed thousands of civilians, including women and children, displaced more than 3 million and turned Yemen from deprivation to devastation.

Not only Saudi Arabia but also those who have supported the aggression by the Saudi-led coalition against Yemeni people should be held accountable for the war crimes perpetrated in Yemen over the past year and a half. There is no doubt that the Saudi attacks against Yemeni civilians and civil infrastructure would not have been possible without a full range of expansive assistance by certain Western countries, including through arms supplies, sensitive intelligence sharing, aerial refuelling, joint planning, etc.

In view of the gravity of the situation in Yemen and the devastation caused by the attacks against the funeral hall, the Iranian Red Crescent Society is proposing to arrange for humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies, to the Yemeni people and evacuating the injured to hospitals in Iran. I would like to hereby request your good offices to help make the necessary arrangement for expeditiously dispatching an aeroplane with humanitarian supplies from Iran to Sana'a.

It would be highly appreciated if I could receive a prompt reply from you on this request.

(*Signed*) M. Javad Zarif

United Nations S/2016/852

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 7 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2265 (2016) of 10 February 2016, by which the Council decided to extend until 12 March 2017 the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and requested that I take the necessary administrative measures in that regard.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, I have appointed the following experts:

- Mr. Thomas Bifwoli Wanjala, transport and customs (Kenya);
- Mr. Vincent Darracq, regional (France);
- Ms. Daniela Kravetz Miranda, international humanitarian law (Chile);
- Mr. Warren Melia, arms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Mr. Abhai Kumar Srivastav, finance (India)

I have also designated Mr. Wanjala to serve as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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United Nations S/2016/853

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations, Mr. Najib Ghadbian, dated 8 October 2016 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the High Negotiations Committee, and as requested by the General Coordinator of the Committee, Riad Hijab, it is my honour to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Hijab, dated 8 October 2016, in which Mr. Hijab discusses the brutal escalation of violence in eastern Aleppo (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition
to the United Nations

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

I write further to my previous letters concerning the tragic situation that the Syrian people have been experiencing for almost six years. You will be aware of the barbaric assault that is taking place in the eastern part of Aleppo city. This brutal escalation has targeted defenceless civilians and deliberately destroyed hospitals, schools, markets and bakeries. All types of internationally prohibited weapons have been used, including armour-piercing and incendiary munitions, bunker busters, cluster bombs and phosphorus bombs, not to mention chemical weapons, which were used at an earlier stage. Some 300 civilians, one third of them children, have been killed in a single week. Hospitals whose capacities had already been severely curtailed owing to the siege declared by the regime and its Iranian and Russian allies have been destroyed. Some 300,000 civilians are living under siege in eastern Aleppo. As a result of the regime's stranglehold, indiscriminate bombardment and denial of humanitarian access, that population risks being wiped out completely. The wounded cannot find the medical assistance that they need in order to save their lives; most cases require transfer outside Aleppo for treatment and essential medical care. You will be aware that such situations are not limited to Aleppo; they are occurring throughout Syria.

The Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions on Syria, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015) and 2268 (2016). However, owing to lack of United Nations oversight, those resolutions have not been implemented. The Security Council has not exercised its authority to enforce its own resolutions and bring an end to the daily slaughter of the Syrian people. The latter needs genuine protection from a tyrannical regime supported by sectarian militias and States that ignore those resolutions and disrespect the Security Council, despite themselves being members of the Council and having accepted its authority to maintain international peace and security.

The protection of civilians is a legal obligation for the United Nations, and both a legal and a moral obligation for its Member States. That much is stipulated in customary international law and in international humanitarian law, as set forth in the Geneva Conventions and the protocols additional thereto. The protection of civilians under international humanitarian law extends to the public and private property of civilians, and to actors attempting to assist civilians, such as medical units and humanitarian organizations providing food, clothing and medical supplies. Particularly vulnerable groups are also entitled to special protection under international humanitarian law; these include women, children, refugees and internally displaced persons, the sick, the wounded and the aged. Despite those principles, the Assad regime and its supporters have continuously and deliberately attacked international relief workers, civilians and civilian targets, including hospitals, schools and markets. It is therefore vital to put an end to impunity and prosecute individuals responsible for grave violations of international humanitarian and criminal law. Indeed, the 2012 Geneva communiqué specifically calls for accountability for acts committed during the conflict.

The tragedy of the Syrian people will last so long as the international community's silence continues to send the wrong message to the regime in

Damascus and its allies. The right message is that a binding resolution should be adopted, with immediate effect, to end the bombardment; allow access for humanitarian assistance; evacuate the injured and sick; put an end to the ongoing forced displacement and demographic change in Rif Dimashq, Homs, and other areas of Syria; and strengthen sanctions against the regime and its allies. Such action would bring genuine pressure to bear on the regime and its allies to respect the aforementioned Security Council resolutions or be held accountable for any violations. It would compel them to embark on the political transition provided for in the resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). That process would preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and ensure that all Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons can return to their homes. It would make it possible to build a democratic State based on justice and the rule of law — a State in which all components of the Syrian State would participate, and none would be excluded or marginalized.

(*Signed*) Riad **Hijab**
General Coordinator
High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary
and Opposition Forces

United Nations S/2016/854

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 7 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), located in Libreville, established following an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in 2009 and 2010 (S/2009/697 and S/2010/457) and its mandate most recently renewed and amended in 2015 (see S/2015/554 and S/2015/555).

My Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegal), has informed me of his intention to conclude his assignment, with effect from 31 October 2016. In this regard, and in order to avoid a leadership gap in UNOCA at a time when the Central African subregion is facing a number of crises requiring immediate attention, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint François Louncény Fall (Guinea) as my Acting Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Bathily for his dedication and effective leadership of UNOCA.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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United Nations S/2016/855

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 11 October 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 7 October 2016 (S/2016/854) concerning your intention to appoint François Louncény Fall (Guinea) as your Acting Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations A/71/543–S/2016/856

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine

Ukraine condemns in the strongest possible terms the organization by Russia in the territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation of elections to the seventh convocation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Having occupied Crimea as a result of the armed aggression against Ukraine and forcefully imposing its legal framework over the peninsula, the Russian Federation continues its gross violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law defined in, among others, the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 5 December 1994, as well as in the obligations of the Russian Federation under bilateral and multilateral agreements to which Russia is a party.

Inclusion of that integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine into the Russian united federal constituency and creation in the Crimean peninsula of four separate single-member majority constituencies is a direct violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law. In this connection, the voting results and the terms of office for the four members of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation elected in Crimea by majority rule system and for the 225 members of parliament elected by proportional representation system are illegitimate as well as null and void. This calls into further question the legitimacy of the whole State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

We reiterate that, in its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", adopted by 100 votes in favour, the General Assembly called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

Ukraine counts on the consistency of our partners' position and their adherence to international law and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We call upon them not to recognize the results of elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with regard to voting in the territory of the occupied Crimean peninsula. Ukraine will forward to all international partners a list of persons involved directly in the organization of this electoral farce in Crimea and those who participated in the illegitimate elections for their inclusion on the sanctions lists.

Once more, Ukraine demands that the Russian Federation stop immediately its armed aggression against Ukraine and de-occupy the seized Ukrainian territories, withdrawing from there the Russian troops.

United Nations A/71/544–S/2016/857

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the Statement of the Parliament of Ukraine on non-recognition by Ukraine of the legitimacy of the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on non-recognition by Ukraine of the legitimacy of the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, their results and legal consequences and, accordingly, the composition, powers, acts and decisions of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation

Taking into account the illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held on 18 September 2016 in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine states:

Ukraine is a sovereign, independent, democratic, social and law-based State, territory of which within its internationally recognized border is indivisible and inviolable.

According to the basic principles of international law, as well as the principles of the United Nations enshrined in particular in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, States shall respect principles such as the sovereign equality of all States, non-use of force in international relations, territorial integrity, inviolability of state borders and non-interference in domestic affairs. Chapters I, III, IV of the Helsinki Final Act also determine the obligation of participating States to respect each other's sovereign equality, the inviolability of frontiers, as well as respect for the territorial integrity of every State. According to the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Russian Federation reaffirmed its commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, to respect the independence, sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" adopted on 27 March 2014, affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and also called upon all States and international organizations not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the referendum and to refrain from any action or dealings that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

Therefore, in considering the illegitimate holding of elections in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 18 September 2016, the conduct of elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, constitutes a violation of the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine, the basic principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, General Assembly resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" adopted on 27 March 2014 at its sixty-eighth session and other international legal acts.

The Verkhovna Rada underlines that the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation consists of 450 members, elected through a mixed

electoral system. In the occupied territory, 225 deputies were elected in a federal constituency and 4 deputies in a single-member constituency, therefore a total of 229 deputies — the majority of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation — were elected in an illegitimate way, and the results of the elections are thus null and void.

According to the general principle of law *Jus ex injuria non oritur* (a legal right cannot arise from an unlawful act), the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, their results and legal consequences and, accordingly, the composition, powers, acts and decisions of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, are illegitimate.

The Russian Federation systematically violates the norms and principles of international law, as demonstrated by holding illegitimate elections in the occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

With regard to the above, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine holds the view that the presence in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, of the deputies elected in the illegitimate elections conducted in the territories occupied by the Russian Federation, results in the illegitimacy of the elections of 18 September 2016 to the State Duma as a whole and, accordingly, in the illegitimacy of the whole lower house of the Russian Parliament, its acts and decisions.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

Recognizes that, in considering the illegitimate holding of the elections in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 18 September 2016, the conduct of elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, constitutes a violation of the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine, the basic principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, General Assembly resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" adopted on 27 March 2014 at its sixty-eighth session and other international legal acts;

Does not recognize the legitimacy of the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, their results and legal consequences and, accordingly, the composition, powers, acts and decisions of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation;

Calls on the Security Council of the United Nations and the General Assembly, foreign parliaments, parliamentary assemblies and international organizations to not recognize the legitimacy of the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation, their results and legal consequences and, accordingly, the composition, powers, acts and decisions of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, seventh convocation.

United Nations S/2016/858

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 11 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I write further to my previous letters informing you of acts of aggression carried out by the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, its oil and gas facilities and its economic infrastructure. I wish to inform you that the coalition has once again deliberately attacked the service infrastructure by bombarding the following facilities:

- The Tanak oil field and its facilities in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, on 13 August 2016;
- The surroundings of the Jafra oil wells in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, on 31 August;
- The surroundings of the Jafra oil wells in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, on 14 September;
- The Jaziyah and Umar oil wells in in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, on 26 September.

The repeated bombardments have caused extensive material damage and have almost completely destroyed some of those facilities. The so-called international coalition's attacks on the infrastructure of the Syrian Arab Republic have caused considerable damage to Syrian oil and gas facilities, particularly in the governorates of Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah and Raqqah.

The so-called coalition air force bombardments of economic facilities and infrastructure, along with the unilateral coercive economic measures which certain States have imposed on the Syrian people, have exacerbated the difficult situation in which the country finds itself.

In view of those repeated and deliberate attacks on its oil facilities and its economy, the Syrian Arab Republic reserves the right to demand that the States participating in the American coalition pay compensation to Syria for the damage caused. Such compensation is a right enshrined in international law. The Syrian Arab Republic calls on those States to bring an immediate end to such practices,

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which are destroying the resources of the Syrian people, prolonging the crisis and delaying the country's recovery.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/859

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 11 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, having in mind the safety of its citizens in the eastern part of Aleppo, and with a view to normalizing the situation in the eastern part of Aleppo and allowing the resumption of State institutions to provide full services to those citizens in the eastern part of Aleppo, declares its full readiness to:

- Ensure the safety of those citizens who wish to leave the area and provide them with all the conditions for a decent living
- Guarantee the safety of those armed individuals who wish to leave the area and regularize their status
- Guarantee the safety of those armed individuals who wish to go to other places of their choosing along with their individual weapons
- Evacuate the wounded and injured and provide them with medical attention.

To that end, the Aleppo governorate has allocated a number of safe corridors.

The Syrian Government stands ready to discuss any initiative that would help achieve the above-mentioned goals.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations A/71/547–S/2016/860

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2016
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 68 (c) and 108

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 12 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the repeated letters from the representative of the Syrian regime, the latest of which is dated 29 September 2016 (S/2016/823), I should like to state the following:

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stands by all of the letters of response that it has addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council.

It absolutely and categorically rejects the futile and deceptive accusations that the representative of the Syrian regime persists in inventing. Nobody is fooled by this repugnant and monotonous farrago of lies and delusions, whose purpose is to cover up his regime's failure to reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria, not to mention its ongoing crimes: the regime is bombarding Syrian civilians, denying them their most basic human rights, besieging them and starving them without pity.

The representative of the Syrian regime ought rather to address the extensive destruction, killings and forced displacement to which Syria and its people have fallen victim. He should consider the tragic humanitarian situation in Syrian cities, particularly Aleppo. He should ponder the need for the regime to allow humanitarian assistance convoys to enter the cities that it has cruelly besieged, and to refrain from targeting medical facilities and staff. Instead, he continues to spout manipulative and futile accusations in a shameful endeavour to distract the Security Council. He has waged a campaign of abuse against Jordan, a country whose leaders, Government and people have opened their hearts, as well as their homes, to their Syrian brethren fleeing disaster. We have shared our limited resources with

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them, and we have not stopped providing them with essential services, despite the economic and financial burden that such work entails. In that connection, I wish to reiterate Jordan's consistent position of rejecting terrorism and extremism in all their forms, whatever their motivation. Jordan is fully committed to implementing the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council.

The Government of Jordan once again stresses that it is prepared to participate in any international efforts aimed at reaching a political solution in Syria that would preserve the country's unity and stability. At the current stage, such a solution must be the priority in order to protect Syrian civilians, secure the situation in Syria and prevent its deterioration into a humanitarian disaster that would destabilize the region and endanger international peace and security.

By persisting in his campaigns of propaganda and demagoguery, the representative of the Syrian regime merely proves that neither he nor it have any concern for the lives of innocent Syrian civilians. Instead, he ought to focus on how to support international efforts to reach a political solution in Syria with a view to sparing its people's lives, establishing a ceasefire and allowing humanitarian assistance to reach the Syrian hinterland.

We call on the Security Council to press the Syrian regime to comply with its commitments under international humanitarian law, respect the principles of neighbourly relations, refrain from levelling accusations at Member States, and implement all of its resolutions on Syria, as well as the resolutions of the General Assembly, the provisions of international law and human rights principles.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 68 (c) and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sima **Bahous**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/71/546–S/2016/861

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 October 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 11 October 2016 from the representatives of Canada, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to write to you on behalf of 62 Member States, namely, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yemen, to express outrage and horror at the dangerous escalation of violence throughout the city of Aleppo and its continued besiegement. We echo the Secretary-General's condemnation on 24 September 2016 of the appalling military escalation in Aleppo and join the calls upon the international community, through the Security Council, to fulfil its responsibility to use appropriate means to help protect the people of Syria from mass atrocities, save civilians from the scourge of war and end the senseless violence in Syria.

Since the Syrian authorities announced the launch of an offensive to capture eastern Aleppo on 22 September 2016, there has been a significant escalation of indiscriminate attacks, bombing and shelling on civilians and civilian facilities, as well as repeated reports of an escalation of indiscriminate air strikes, using incendiary weapons and advanced munitions such as "bunker-busting" bombs. Civilians and the infrastructure the civilians depend on for their livelihood are being struck in a very calculated campaign. As the Secretary-General has underlined,

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"those using ever more destructive weapons know exactly what they are doing. They know they are committing war crimes".

The most recent sharp escalation in violence in eastern Aleppo has caused hundreds of civilian casualties, including the deaths of rescue workers, women and more than 100 children. Medical facilities, medical workers and patients have been repeatedly bombed. It has to be recalled that deliberate attacks on hospitals are war crimes, denying people access to essential health care violates international humanitarian law and that medical missions enjoy special protection under international humanitarian law. As the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs stated in his remarks to the Security Council on 29 September 2016, "east Aleppo this minute is not at the edge of the precipice; it is well into its terrible descent into the pitiless and merciless abyss of a humanitarian catastrophe unlike any we have witnessed in Syria". In western Aleppo, attacks have also been launched by non-state armed groups, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries.

We call on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular to cease all acts of violence against civilians, and to uphold their responsibilities, as prescribed in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016) and 2286 (2016). We furthermore call upon the Security Council and the international community to uphold their responsibility to use appropriate means to help protect Syrian civilians from mass atrocities, to ensure immediate, full, unimpeded, safe and sustained humanitarian access in Syria and the free movement of peoples into and out of Aleppo and across Syria, in particular to all besieged and hard-to-reach areas, to promote accountability for crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity and to take the necessary measures to restore the cessation of hostilities, by ensuring that violations to the cessation are closely monitored. Monitoring should be transparent and qualitative, and violations should be met with consequences.

There is no military solution to the conflict. We, therefore, call upon all actors in Syria to engage constructively in a political process that leads to a political transition based on the Geneva communiqué and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Too often in the face of atrocities in Syria, the Security Council has failed to achieve consensus and the international community has failed to uphold its responsibility to protect civilians. As the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs has stated, the Security Council risks being "on the wrong side of history and on the wrong side of avoidable deaths".

We would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated to all Member States as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michael **Grant**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad Sh. **Al-Otaibi**
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Karel J. G. **van Oosterom**
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

United Nations S/2016/862

Security Council

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Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on Haiti, in particular its resolutions 2243 (2015), 2180 (2014), 2119 (2013), 2070 (2012), 2012 (2011), 1944 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1908 (2010), 1892 (2009), 1840 (2008), 1780 (2007), 1743 (2007), 1702 (2006), 1658 (2006), 1608 (2005), 1576 (2004) and 1542 (2004),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report S/2016/753 of 31 August 2016,

Noting the revised electoral calendar which set a first date of 9 October 2016 for a repeat of the 2015 presidential election and partial re-runs of the legislative elections, together with first-round elections for one-third of the Senate seats whose current incumbents will end their term in office in January 2017, and a second electoral round for 8 January, including presidential and senatorial run-offs, if required, and the single-round local elections, although the 9 October date was postponed due to Hurricane Matthew,

Also noting that, according to this calendar, the final results of the presidential election will be announced by 30 January 2017 and the installation of the newly elected President expected to take place on 7 February 2017, in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti,

Underscoring the importance of the Government of Haiti, the Electoral Council and political parties and all political actors in ensuring that the upcoming rounds of elections are conducted in a free, fair, inclusive, peaceful, transparent, credible, and democratic manner and in accordance with the electoral law,

Recognizing that the security situation during the reporting period remained relatively calm but fragile, due to the prevailing political uncertainty,

Recognizing the important role of MINUSTAH in ensuring stability and security in Haiti, and commending MINUSTAH for continuing to assist the Government of Haiti to ensure a secure and stable environment, and expressing

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gratitude to the personnel of MINUSTAH and to their countries and paying tribute to those injured or killed in the line of duty; commending also the wide range of reconstruction efforts in Haiti and the successful work achieved by MINUSTAH's military engineering units,

Also recognizing the importance of condition-based security-related decisions about the future of MINUSTAH and noting that there were some incidents of violence during the reporting period,

Reiterating the critical role of the Haitian National Police (HNP) to Haiti's security and stability and welcoming the ongoing strengthening, professionalization and reform of the HNP,

Welcoming that the capacity of the HNP has continued to improve, and they have demonstrated their determination to provide for the safety and security of the Haitian people and *noting* that they are not yet operationally independent and continue to rely on international support including from MINUSTAH, in fulfilling their constitutional mandate,

Underscoring the importance of adequate funding for the Haitian National Police (HNP) to enhance its logistic, administrative and operational capacities, and encouraging the Government of Haiti to take advantage of the support being provided by the international community to guarantee the provision of adequate security for the Haitian people and calling on all international partners to strengthen their coordination in this regard,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the HNP to patrol and enhance its presence and engagement directly with the population; recognizing MINUSTAH's continued community policing efforts, in close coordination with camp committees, in sites for internally displaced persons, and welcoming their engagement with the population,

Noting that the HNP continued to implement its 2012-2016 Development Plan, as well as MINUSTAH's support for development of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan,

Underlining the need to further strengthen Haitian judicial and correctional systems, in order to support a more integrated and cohesive Haitian security sector, noting the slow progress towards consolidating the rule of law and calling on Haitian authorities to continue to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening rule of law institutions and ending impunity,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262 and *reaffirming* Haitian ownership of "sustaining peace" strategies, and in this regard, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and the role that civil society can play to advance national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account,

Recognizing also the interconnected nature of the challenges in Haiti, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, the rule of law and institutional reform, national reconciliation and sustainable development, including the combat against unemployment and poverty, are mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Haiti and the international community to address these challenges, in line with the government's priorities,

Noting with concern that Haiti continues to suffer humanitarian challenges, underlining the importance and urgency of the Humanitarian Response Plan appeal launched jointly by the Government of Haiti and the United Nations to meet critical humanitarian needs of 1.3 million people, and *acknowledging* that while important progress has been made, Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian challenges,

Noting that the ongoing return or entry of Haitians and persons of Haitian descent from the Dominican Republic has tested the capacity of the State to provide assistance,

Noting with concern that as a result of the ongoing drought, 3.6 million suffered from food insecurity, of whom 1.5 million from acute food insecurity, which could impact the humanitarian situation and stability,

Noting an increase in suspected cases of cholera and cholera-related deaths,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts by the Government of Haiti to control and eliminate the cholera epidemic, as well as the intensified efforts of MINUSTAH and United Nations agencies in support of the implementation of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera and urging the United Nations country team in coordination with other actors to continue to support the Government of Haiti in addressing the structural weaknesses, in particular in the water and sanitation systems,

Underscoring the importance of strengthening the Haitian national health institutions, and recognizing United Nations efforts to combat cholera, including through the Secretary-General's initiative to support the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera,

Taking note of the intention of the Secretary-General to develop a package that would provide material assistance and support to those Haitians directly affected by cholera,

Emphasizing that progress in the reconstruction of Haiti, as well as in Haiti's social and economic development, including through effective, coordinated, commendable international development assistance and increased Haitian institutional capacity to benefit from this assistance, are crucial to achieving lasting and sustainable stability, and reiterating the need for security to be accompanied by social and economic development, including efforts in risk reduction and preparedness that address the country's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters, efforts in which the Government of Haiti plays a leading role,

Welcoming the increased joint programming of the United Nations country team in Haiti in alignment and coordination with the Government-endorsed Integrated Strategic Framework, and welcoming also the commitment to foster greater alignment of international assistance with national priorities, increase transparency and strengthen mutual accountability, as well as the need for stronger coordination,

Urging donors to complete their pledges in order, inter alia, to help promote access to services and jobs for the most vulnerable, and underlining the Government of Haiti's responsibility to provide clear guidance to donors on its priorities and to facilitate delivery of assistance to those most in need,

Expressing concern that social inequalities remain highly visible, that over the past year core inflation has risen to about 10 per cent, and that insufficient investment, required to boost economic growth, and generate employment, combined with political uncertainty and lack of transparent and effective governance systems, have continued to impact negatively on development and the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan of Haiti,

Emphasizing the role of women and youth in the economy and the importance of promoting economic empowerment for these stakeholders,

Emphasizing the role of regional organizations in the ongoing process of stabilization and reconstruction of Haiti and calling on MINUSTAH to continue to work closely with international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, and other stakeholders, in particular the Organization of the American States (OAS), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM),

Expressing serious concern that sexual and gender-based violence, especially against women and children, remains a substantial problem, particularly in marginalized districts of Port-au-Prince, remaining internally displaced persons sites and remote areas of the country,

Noting with concern the slow progress towards consolidating the rule of law and calling on the Haitian Government to address the deficiencies in the justice and corrections systems, prolonged pretrial detention, prison overcrowding, widespread corruption, and denial of human rights including fair trial guarantees,

Recognizing that strengthening national human rights institutions as well as respect for human rights, including of children, and due process and combating criminality, sexual and gender-based violence, and putting an end to impunity and ensuring accountability are essential to ensuring the rule of law and security in Haiti, including access to justice,

Taking note that the Government of Haiti has failed to assign the human rights portfolio to a specific Ministry and that Judicial authorities have not made significant progress in the investigation and in the prosecution, as appropriate, of crimes involving serious human rights violations,

Reaffirming the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the coordination and conduct of all activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Haiti, and reaffirming also its support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's role in ensuring optimal coordination and collaboration between MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team in connection with the aspects of their respective mandates that are correlated particularly as part of MINUSTAH's condition-based consolidation plan,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as described in section 1 of operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1542 (2004),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH, in line with the Secretary-General's report, as contained in its resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005),

1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007), 1840 (2008), 1892 (2009), 1908 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1944 (2010), 2012 (2011) 2070 (2012), 2119 (2013), 2180 (2014) and 2243 (2015), until 15 April 2017;

2. *Decides* that MINUSTAH's overall force levels will consist of up to 2,370 troops and of a police component composed of up to 2,601 personnel, the force levels recommended by the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a Strategic Assessment Mission of the situation in Haiti by the end of the current mandate and preferably after the inauguration of a newly elected president and, on this basis, to present its recommendations on the future presence and role of the United Nations in Haiti in the next Secretary-General Report to the Security Council;

4. *Affirms* its intention, based on the Security Council's review by 15 April 2017 of Haiti's overall capacity to ensure security and stability and on the security conditions on the ground, to consider the possible withdrawal of MINUSTAH and transition to a future United Nations presence beginning no sooner than 15 April 2017, to continue to assist the Government of Haiti to consolidate peace, including support to the Haitian National Police;

5. *Affirms* that adjustments to the force configuration should be based on the situation on the ground, compatible with the capacity of MINUSTAH and the HNP to maintain security in the context of the ongoing electoral and political processes, and should take into account the results of the Secretary-General's strategic assessment, the importance of maintaining a secure and stable environment and the impact of social and political realities on Haiti's stability and security, the increasing development of the Haitian State's capabilities, in particular the ongoing strengthening of the HNP, and the national authorities' increasing exercise of the Haitian State's responsibility for the maintenance of stability and security in the country;

6. *Calls upon* MINUSTAH to maintain capacity, including appropriate air assets, to deploy troops rapidly throughout the country;

7. *Affirms* its commitment to act at any time to adapt MINUSTAH's mandate and force levels, if compelled by a change of conditions in Haiti, if necessary to preserve the progress Haiti has made towards durable security and stability;

8. *Takes note* of the implementation of the conditions-based consolidation plan of MINUSTAH, which focused the Mission's activities on a core set of mandated tasks as agreed with the Government of Haiti and notes that given its reduced capacity and with a view to ensuring continuous progress as the Mission transitions towards the post-consolidation period, MINUSTAH has prioritized the mandated activities and will continue to focus its resources on priority areas, while progressively disengaging from others in coordination with the Haitian Government and international partners;

9. *Decides* that MINUSTAH will continue to prepare for its transition, including through the development of a Transition Plan and the focused implementation of the Mission's Consolidation Plan and takes note of MINUSTAH's and the United Nations country team's ongoing preparatory work on

a joint transition plan aimed at consolidating the stabilization gains made with support from the Mission, in accordance with its mandate;

10. *Recognizes* the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti over all aspects of the country's stabilization; encourages MINUSTAH to continue its efforts to provide logistical and technical expertise, within available means and consistent with its mandate, and coordinating as appropriate with the United Nations country team and others active in stabilization efforts, to assist as requested by the Government of Haiti, to continue to implement decentralization efforts and build the capacity of its institutions at the national and local levels, with a view to enhance further the Government of Haiti's ability to extend State authority throughout Haiti and promote good governance and rule of law at all levels;

11. *Strongly urges* Haiti's political actors to work cooperatively in the interests of the Haitian people, joining forces in prioritizing the country's return to full constitutional normality by completing the electoral process, under way, and without further delays, to ensure the holding, in keeping with the established electoral calendar and in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti and Haiti's international obligations, of free, fair, inclusive, and transparent presidential election and partial re-runs of the legislative elections, together with first-round elections for one-third of the Senate seats whose current incumbents will end their term in office in January 2017 in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti and also urges Haiti's political actors to encourage the citizens to a higher level of involvement in the upcoming electoral rounds;

12. *Welcomes* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's efforts to support the political process under way in Haiti; reaffirms its call upon MINUSTAH to continue to support this process; calls upon MINUSTAH to deliver and coordinate, as appropriate, international electoral assistance to the Government of Haiti in cooperation with international stakeholders including the OAS, UNASUR, and CARICOM as appropriate;

13. *Reaffirms* that Haiti is at an important juncture in the consolidation of stability and democracy, and the engagement of its political leaders and stakeholders in dialogue and compromise is vital to securing the gains made in recent years, in order to set Haiti firmly on a path towards lasting stability and economic development and to enable Haitians to assume even greater responsibility in that regard;

14. *Recalls* resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2272 (2016) and encourages the Government of Haiti, with the support of relevant stakeholders, to promote increased women's political participation in Haiti, in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment of the National Federation of Woman Mayors with support from the Ministry of Interior and Local Governance, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights, and MINUSTAH;

16. *Reaffirms* that, in the framework of the improvement of the rule of law in Haiti, strengthening the capacity of the HNP is paramount for the Government of Haiti to take timely and full responsibility for the country's security needs, which is central to Haiti's overall stability and future development;

17. *Reiterates* that the HNP's capacity-building remains a most critical task for MINUSTAH; requests MINUSTAH to continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of the HNP, in particular by renewed efforts to mentor and train police and corrections personnel, including at intermediate rank levels; calls on MINUSTAH to align skills of UNPOL personnel to support these objectives and provide skilled trainers and technical advisers;

18. *Underlines* the need to ensure effective support from the Government of Haiti and its international and regional partners for the HNP, in order to achieve the goals of a minimum of 15,000 fully operational serving police officers by the revised target date of end 2017, adequate logistic and administrative capacity, accountability and respect for human rights and rule of law, a robust vetting process, enhanced recruitment procedures and training, strengthened land and maritime border control, and improved deterrence of transnational organized crime;

19. *Notes* that work has begun by the national police, with support from MINUSTAH and look forward to the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, which aims to determine targets and performance indicators based on a thorough analysis of the capacities of the national police and further notes that activities not achieved during the 2012-2016 period will also be incorporated into the Plan;

20. *Stresses* the need for close coordination among MINUSTAH, donors, and the Government of Haiti to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of HNP capacity-building efforts; requests also MINUSTAH to facilitate this coordination and to continue to provide technical guidance to donor-funded projects as requested for the rehabilitation and construction of police and corrections facilities as well as for other projects aiming to support HNP's institutional capacity as appropriate;

21. *Encourages* MINUSTAH, in cooperation with the appropriate international actors, to continue to assist the Government of Haiti in effectively tackling gang violence, organized crime, illegal arms trafficking, drug trafficking and trafficking of persons especially children, as well as ensuring proper border management;

22. *Encourages* the Haitian authorities to continue to implement justice reform by taking the necessary steps, including through ongoing support to the Superior Council of the Judiciary, to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the judicial institutions, and to continue to address the issue of prolonged pretrial detentions and prison conditions and overcrowding, with special regard to women and children held in detention;

23. *Calls upon* donors and other partners, including the United Nations and the international financial institutions to remain engaged in support of the long-term development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, and calls upon Haitian authorities and international partners to take transparent steps to strengthen coordination;

24. *Calls on* the Government of Haiti and development partners to redouble efforts to use existing mechanisms for the tracking of assistance in order to increase transparency, coordination and alignment with Haitian development priorities;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the extension of the integrated strategic framework between the United Nations country team and the Mission that serves to reinforce cooperation among the different elements of the United Nations presence in Haiti;

26. *Requests* the United Nations country team, and calls upon all actors, to complement security and development operations undertaken by the Government of Haiti with the support of MINUSTAH with longer term impact activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the concerned populations, in particular women and children;

27. *Requests* MINUSTAH, working in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to implement quick-impact projects that contribute in building a secure and stable environment and enhance national ownership and the trust of the Haitian population towards MINUSTAH, particularly in the priority areas identified by the Mission's leadership and consistent with the Government of Haiti's priorities as appropriate;

28. *Strongly condemns* the grave violations and abuses against children affected particularly by criminal gang violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls, and calls upon the Government of Haiti, with the support of MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, to continue to promote and protect the rights of women and children as set out in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1612 (2005), 1820 (2008), 1882 (2009), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), and 2242 (2015) and encourages all actors in the Haitian Government, the international community and civil society to renew their efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti, as well as to improve response to rape complaints and access to justice for the victims of rape and other sexual crimes and encourages national authorities to promote national legislation in this regard;

29. *Requests* MINUSTAH to continue to pursue its community violence reduction approach, in close collaboration with the Haitian Government, with a particular focus on at-risk youth, women, the displaced and those living in violence-affected neighbourhoods and to ensure that this activity is coordinated with, and supports the work of, the United Nations country team to build local capacity in this area by taking into account Haitian priorities;

30. *Encourages* MINUSTAH to continue assisting the Government of Haiti in providing adequate protection to the civilian population, with particular attention to the needs of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, especially women and children, including through joint community policing in the camps, in line with Security Council resolution 1894 (2009);

31. *Recalls* resolution 2272 (2016) and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all MINUSTAH personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to continue to keep the Council informed, and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to redouble efforts in preventing cases of misconduct and to ensure that acts involving their personnel are properly investigated and punished;

32. *Reaffirms* MINUSTAH's human rights mandate as an essential component of the Mission and recognizes that respect for human rights is an essential element for Haiti's stability, in particular attention to individual accountability for grave violations under past governments, urges the Government to ensure with the support of the international community, as appropriate, the respect and protection of human

rights by the HNP and the judiciary, and calls on MINUSTAH to provide monitoring and support in this regard;

33. *Encourages* MINUSTAH, within its mandate, to continue to use existing means and capabilities, including its engineers, with a view to enhancing stability in Haiti while fostering greater Haitian ownership in the context of its condition-based consolidation plan;

34. *Requests* MINUSTAH to continue to support the Haitian authorities in their efforts to control the flow of small arms, the development of a weapons registry, the revision of current laws on importation and possession of arms, reform of the weapons permit system and the development and implementation of a national community policing doctrine;

35. *Underscores* the importance that planning documents for MINUSTAH's military and police components, such as the concept of operations and rules of engagement, be regularly updated, as appropriate, and be in line with the provisions of all its relevant resolutions, and requests the Secretary-General to fully report in a timely manner on them to the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed, and to report to the Council on the implementation of MINUSTAH's mandate not later than thirty days prior to its expiration;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports a comprehensive assessment of the situation in Haiti, highlighting the security conditions on the ground with a specific focus on the capacity of the Haitian National Police, and to continue to present a progress report of the consolidation plan as an annex to his next report;

38. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2016/863

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 11 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing once again with regard to the continued military hostilities committed by Houthi militias in Yemen and military units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the Saudi border as well as within Saudi Arabia's territorial limits, in a flagrant violation of the security and safety of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216 (2015).

I have the honour to attach herewith a list of numerous ballistic missile attacks violating the border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period from 6 June 2015 to 9 October 2016 (see annex). On 9 October, Houthi rebel militias and their supporters fired a ballistic missile of the type "Borkan-1" (Volcano-1) at the city of Taif, located more than 600 kilometres (372 miles) away from the border with Yemen, in the Western Province of Saudi Arabia. The solid propellant and Scud-type Borkan-1 missile reportedly has a range of more than 800 kilometres (497 miles). This presents an unprecedented level of threat and danger risking the lives of civilians and population centres in Saudi Arabia and the peace and security in the region as well as the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its right to take all appropriate measures to counter the threats by the Iran-funded and backed Houthi-Saleh rebel militias and will spare no effort in protecting the security and safety of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and its people, and the region, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Houthi rebel militias and forces loyal to the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and their foreign ally must be held accountable for their continued irresponsible and criminal behaviour. Complacency will only encourage further violations, undermine the credibility of the Security Council's resolutions and further impede a political settlement of the crisis in Yemen.

The continued resort to violence by the Houthi militias and their allies since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen, and their refusal to return to legitimacy and abide by the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216 (2015), including its paragraphs 1, 6, 8, 9 and 12, have resulted in the catastrophic and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen and the further undermining of the political consultations.

We once again call on the Security Council to condemn the terrorist acts by the Houthis and their allies and take appropriate measures against the countries supporting and associating with the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in their terrorist crimes and their threat to the region's security and safety and international peace and security.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates its support to the important work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to reach a comprehensive agreement to end the conflict in Yemen, in accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 11 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

	Date	*Missile type*	*Impacted area*	*Notes*
1	6 June 2015	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Intercepted
2	29 June 2015	Ballistic missile	Najran	Fell in uninhabited area
3	26 August 2015	Ballistic missile	Najran	Intercepted
4	15 October 2015	Ballistic missile	Najran	Fell in uninhabited area
5	13 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Fell in uninhabited area
6	18 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Najran	Fell in uninhabited area
7	20 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Near southern border of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Fell in uninhabited area
8	21 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
9	21 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
10	22 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Fell in uninhabited area
11	26 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Najran	Intercepted
12	30 December 2015	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
13	1 January 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Fell in uninhabited area
14	7 January 2016	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
15	8 February 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Intercepted
16	8 February 2016	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
17	13 February 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Intercepted
18	9 May 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Intercepted
19	9 May 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Fell in uninhabited area
20	30 May 2016	Ballistic missile	Najran	Intercepted
21	4 July 2016	Ballistic missile	Najran	Intercepted
22	23 July 2016	Ballistic missile	Najran	Intercepted
23	27 July 2016	Ballistic missile	Asir region	Fell in uninhabited area
24	10 August 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Intercepted

	Date	Missile type	Impacted area	Notes
25	10 August 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Intercepted
26	13 August 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Intercepted
27	25 August 2016	Ballistic missile	Jazan	Intercepted
28	30 August 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Fell in uninhabited area
29	10 September 2016	Ballistic missile	Al Khubah (Jazan)	Fell in uninhabited area
30	12 September 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Intercepted
31	19 September 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Intercepted
32	21 September 2016	Ballistic missile	Khamis Mushit	Fell in uninhabited area
33	7 October 2016	Ballistic missile	Abha	Fell in uninhabited area
34	9 October 2016	Ballistic missile	Al Taif	Intercepted

United Nations S/2016/864

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2016

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 27 of Security Council resolution 2287 (2016), in which the Council requested me to continue to inform it of progress in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and to bring to its immediate attention any serious violation of the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area, of 20 June 2011 (S/2011/384, annex). The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA from the issuance of my previous report (S/2016/353) on 15 April 2016 to 14 October 2016. It also presents the progress made in the implementation of additional tasks mandated under Council resolution 2024 (2011) relating to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

II. Security situation

2. The security situation in the Abyei Area remained unpredictable but generally calm. UNISFA continued to conduct operations to maintain peace and stability. It conducted 16,047 day and night patrols, undertook 2,968 escorts and facilitated 243 joint security committee meetings with community leaders in the Abyei Area.

3. The Government of the Sudan continued to maintain between 120 and 150 oil police personnel inside the Diffra oil complex, in violation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011 and several Security Council resolutions. There were also reports of elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) present within the Abyei Area. On 8 May, an armed South Sudanese soldier on leave, who was seen threatening a villager with his rifle in Agok in the southern sector, was disarmed by UNISFA troops and handed over to the Agok community protection committee.

4. As noted in my previous report, the conflict prevention and mitigation strategy adopted by UNISFA for the previous dry season involved the creation of a line of disengagement between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. The Force's planned and selective relaxing of the line of disengagement enabled Misseriya access to grazing land and water in the southern part of the Abyei Area. It also allowed the Ngok Dinka to return, for the first time since the 2011 conflict, to nine

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villages north of river Kiir. With the onset of the rainy season in June, the reverse migration northward of the Misseriya, comprising about 35,000 people, was largely peaceful, in contrast to the spate of violence that has traditionally characterized the reverse migration.

5. The grazing by Misseriya-owned herds in areas inhabited by Ngok Dinka resulted in some instances of cattle rustling. As part of fostering reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, several instances of the return of rustled cattle by both sides were facilitated by UNISFA. Significant progress was observed in the monitoring of stolen property and livestock by the two communities and in the prompt return of or provision of compensation for stolen property to victims of crime. On 25 April, responding to reports of cattle rustling by unknown persons in the central sector, a Ngok Dinka community leader handed back cattle to a Misseriya community leader in the presence of UNISFA representatives. In a gesture of reciprocation, on 4 May, cattle reported missing by the Ngok Dinka at Noong were recovered and handed over by Misseriya community leaders. Intercommunity cooperation extended to other potentially disruptive criminal incidents: on 28 April, Misseriya community leaders compensated the family of a Ngok Dinka stabbed to death on 1 April at Noong. The victim's stolen motorbike was also returned.

6. Criminality was largely intra-ethnic. On 10 June, a Ngok Dinka man, armed with an AK-47 rifle, attacked three Ngok Dinka community protection committee members for unknown reasons in the general area of Agok, killing two and seriously injuring one. The assailant later killed himself. On 27 April, a Ngok Dinka man shot dead another Ngok Dinka man in Abyei town. Similarly, on 10 May, a Misseriya cattle herder was stabbed to death in a fight with another Misseriya cattle herder, 8 km from Tajalei in the southern sector.

7. In relation to security incidents concerning UNISFA operations, on 3 August, unknown armed persons fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades near the UNISFA Tajalei company operating base in the southern sector. UNISFA troops conducted a patrol in the suspected area and recovered two expended rockets, nine live rounds and 23 fired cartridges.

8. There was a relative decrease in the number of thefts and break-ins inside the UNISFA compound, as well as the United Nations common premises compound occupied by personnel of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Whereas during the previous reporting period there were 22 break-ins and thefts, during the current reporting period there were only 9 such incidents; the construction of hard-walled perimeter fencing contributed to the improvement. The break-ins were perpetrated by young people from Abyei and neighbouring areas.

9. Given that the establishment of the Abyei Police Service remained a challenge, the UNISFA police component continued its efforts to support the maintenance of law and order through community-based interactive patrols. UNISFA police conducted 271 independent and joint security observation and community interactive patrols, covering a total distance of 5,852 km. The UNISFA police component continued capacity-building of community protection committees in accordance with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 2287 (2016). Co-locating with community protection committees, UNISFA police provided training on managing law and order situations and performing administrative

functions. The establishment of community protection committees in northern Abyei continued to be delayed owing to the reservations of the Government of the Sudan about the concept.

10. The police component attended joint security meetings along with military and community stakeholders in the central and northern sectors, sharing community policing techniques and promoting safer neighbourhoods as a way to protect civilians. The UNISFA police gender cell, in collaboration with the UNISFA training and development cell, conducted induction training sessions covering sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, gender equality and gender mainstreaming. UNISFA police conducted crime prevention campaigns on safety.

11. In line with the UNISFA mandate to confiscate and destroy weapons, UNISFA military and police and personnel of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations destroyed 13 AK-47 rifles and more than 6,000 rounds of small arms ammunition at the UNISFA weapons and ammunition management facility at Dokura in the central sector. Four anti-personnel mines, three of which were in the vicinity of the common market at Noong, were cleared after reports by community members. During the reporting period, 90 km of priority routes were verified as safe from explosive hazards. The routes included those used by company operating bases for robust area patrolling. Three routes within the Abyei Area remained unassessed for explosive hazards at the end of the reporting period.

12. Non-technical survey and mine risk education activities in various communities led to the identification and destruction of 77 items of explosive remnants of war. The Abyei camp expansion site, comprising 540,000 m^2, was deemed safe from explosive hazards. Mine risk education messages were delivered to 461 UNISFA civilian personnel, military observers and military and United Nations agency personnel. Mine awareness messages were also delivered to more than 18,600 people, including nomadic herdsmen and returnees.

13. As part of its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, UNISFA upgraded its deployment at Goli and Marial Achak, in the northern and southern sectors, respectively, to permanent company operating bases. In June, the Government of the Sudan lifted the restriction on deliveries of construction material into the Abyei Area, enabling the Force to start work on the Abyei camp expansion and resume work on improving mission infrastructure.

III. Intercommunal dialogue

14. UNISFA continued its engagement with both communities on enhancing intercommunity dialogue with the aim of promoting reconciliation. To that end, the central theme was the promotion of the common market, which had been set up at Noong in the central sector in mid-March. With the onset of the rainy season, the common market was moved to Amiet owing to concerns that Noong would not be accessible to vehicles carrying goods and passengers during the rainy season. The market started functioning from its new location on 14 June, with most activities focused on the erection of stalls and shelters.

15. With regard to both common markets at Noong and Amiet, UNISFA provided perimeter and area security, and joint peace committees were established to manage marketplace activities. UNISFA representatives attended the weekly joint peace committee meetings as an observer. UNISFA also carried out several confiscations of weapons in the market and its environs. On 3 May, a UNISFA patrol arrested two Misseriya men with three AK-47s and assorted ammunition in the Nynchor area in the central sector and handed them over to the community leaders in Diffra for prosecution. On 8 May, UNISFA troops disarmed a Misseriya and a Ngok Dinka man found with an old rifle and a hand grenade, respectively, at the Noong common market.

16. Several major security incidents occurred in and around the marketplaces. On 4 May, a Ngok Dinka man was killed and his motorcycle was stolen by unknown assailants while on his way from the Noong common market to Abyei in the central sector. On 7 June, two unknown assailants on a motorcycle shot and killed two men and seriously wounded another when they fired at a vehicle moving from Noong towards Abyei. On 21 June, in the general area of Kolom in the central sector, unknown assailants armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades opened fire on a commercial pickup vehicle transporting traders from Twic County in Warrap State, South Sudan, to the common market at Noong. The attack left three people dead and two seriously wounded. In an exchange of fire with a UNISFA patrol responding to the incident, the assailants escaped in the victims' vehicle. UNISFA later recovered the vehicle and arrested two suspects. After preliminary investigations, on 26 June the suspects were handed over to Sudanese national monitors. On the night of 29 June, at the site of the new location of the common market at Amiet, unknown armed men attacked Dinka traders from Twic County, resulting in two deaths and two serious injuries. The armed men made away with some of their wares and 116,500 South Sudanese pounds. Reportedly, there was an altercation regarding a commercial transaction between the victims and some Misseriya traders earlier in the day.

17. As a result of those security incidents, on 30 June UNISFA held a meeting with the Ngok Dinka traditional leaders to discuss ways and means to find lasting solutions to the recent trend of attacks at the marketplace. An agreement was reached to suspend market activities until a joint meeting between both communities was held to control and manage various security and administrative aspects of running the joint market. The temporary suspension of the common market had an impact on the humanitarian and recovery situation in the Abyei Area, as well as in the neighbouring areas in South Sudan, as trading activity was paused to allow for security mechanisms to be put in place prior to the resumption of the common market.

18. In order to promote a shared sense of ownership by both communities of the common market, UNISFA facilitated joint peace committee meetings between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya at Todach in the central sector on 21 and 28 July. UNISFA also facilitated an intercommunity traditional leaders' meeting at Todach on 4 August. The traditional chiefs of both sides agreed to resume the common market at Amiet, as a temporary location, until 31 December. The agreement also affirmed their commitment to peaceful coexistence, payment of compensation for past cases of criminality and measures to end the insecurity surrounding the

common market by establishing a joint traditional court. On 10 August, UNISFA facilitated a follow-up meeting of the joint peace committee at Amiet to work out the modalities, resulting in a written agreement to formally reopen the common market there on 15 August. Humanitarian partners, and UNISFA, supported the common market with water and sanitation facilities. UNISFA supported the two communities in setting up a joint market security mechanism and the aforementioned joint traditional court to maintain law and order in the common market.

19. Security incidents continued, however. On 24 August, unidentified robbers carrying AK-47 assault rifles robbed six Ngok Dinka persons in a vehicle near Dokura in the central sector. On 8 September, three unknown armed robbers shot and killed one female Misseriya trader and seriously wounded another person travelling in a vehicle north of Todach in the northern sector. On 22 September, the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya peace committees held a meeting at the Amiet market to discuss "blood money" payable to the Misseriya for the killing of a Misseriya woman and emphasized the importance and expediency of payment to bereaved families on either side in an effort to lessen any impetus for revenge and resulting insecurity.

IV. Political developments

20. Meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee have not been held since March 2015. A meeting that had been scheduled for May 2016 in Addis Ababa was not held, following a request for postponement from South Sudan pending internal discussions within its Government. However, a delegation from the South Sudanese Committee, which had not visited Abyei for more than a year, arrived in UNISFA for a three-day official visit from 30 August to 1 September. The delegation was briefed on the current security and political situation, the resettlement patterns in northern Abyei, the status of returnees, the common market, quick impact projects and the development work performed by the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

21. The same week, on 4 September, the Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander met in Khartoum with the officials of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee from the Sudan. He was assured of their support for local-level peace processes and their interest in the renewal of the Committee meetings. UNISFA hopes that such interactions will stimulate and promote a positive engagement in both capitals on matters of common concern and provide the much-needed impetus to hold the next Committee meeting in the near future.

V. Humanitarian and recovery situation

22. The difficult economic situation, population movements, intercommunal tension and limited or absent basic public services continued to result in humanitarian and recovery needs in the Abyei Area. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, along with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), continued to provide humanitarian and recovery assistance to 139,000 vulnerable people in the

Abyei Area, including 35,000 seasonal migrants who entered the area in October 2015 and left in June 2016. The delivery of humanitarian and recovery assistance was occasionally interrupted by difficult road conditions caused by heavy rains.

23. Despite logistical challenges in South Sudan, about 95 per cent of the planned food requirements were pre-positioned in various warehouses in the Abyei Area. About 6,800 people displaced from Unity State in South Sudan benefited from general food distribution at the Majak Deng Kaia and Magar displaced persons sites. As part of the food-for-assets programme, about 1,600 ha of land were planted with sorghum and vegetables and 69,000 people benefited from monthly food distributions. Efforts to support community livelihoods through vocational training and income generation benefited the Misseriya community. In addition, 53,000 Misseriya livestock received vaccinations before leaving the Area in May 2016.

24. Integrated health-care and nutrition services continued in all the 13 health facilities and mobile clinics throughout the Abyei Area, including measles vaccination and provision of essential drugs. Partners pre-positioned medical supplies for the rainy season in two clinics in northern Abyei and the Abyei civil hospital for southern Abyei. Nutrition screening and programming support for moderate and acute malnutrition patients continued under a targeted supplementary feeding programme in central and southern Abyei. Other key activities included capacity-building of clinical staff; training of community health and nutrition promoters; distribution of hygiene kits and mosquito nets; and campaigns on blood donation and malnutrition throughout the Abyei Area.

25. Kits of education materials were distributed at 20 schools in the central, northern and southern Abyei Area. The food-for-education programme supported 16,689 schoolchildren with meals, and, as a form of attendance incentive, 3,163 girls were provided with take-home rations in 20 schools in southern and central Abyei. Furthermore, the programme carried out a deworming exercise for 12,000 schoolchildren in 20 schools. Two primary schools in the Noong and Marial Achak returnee villages were rehabilitated. Child protection concerns continued to be monitored through the local social welfare department, and a drop-in centre was constructed in Agok to support the reunification of unaccompanied children with their families. South Sudanese people fleeing conflict who transited through Abyei to various destinations in the Sudan were predominantly women and children. With weak child protection mechanisms within Abyei, children were exposed to risks of violence, exploitation and abuse during the migration.

26. With regard to safe water supply, six new water boreholes were drilled and 29 hand pumps repaired, benefiting at least 35,000 people. Hygiene and joint clean-up campaign and sanitation activities with the participation of community members continued in the northern and southern villages. Other major activities included the training of water user committees and local authority counterparts in water management and maintenance of solar-powered water yards. However, with a limited law enforcement system, vandalism and theft of solar systems was rampant and continued to be a challenge.

27. Restrictions imposed by the Government of the Sudan on non-governmental organizations limited the implementation capacity of humanitarian and development actors, especially in the northern parts of Abyei. Additional challenges included lack

of adequate funds, high implementation costs owing to security and logistical constraints, delays in the issuance of travel permits and restrictions on the movement of personnel and supplies by the Government of the Sudan.

28. The conflict in South Sudan also affected humanitarian operations in Abyei, including through the temporary relocation of international staff reporting to Juba; the looting of and high prices for supplies procured in South Sudan; and delays in NGO activities supported by South Sudan offices, particularly those based in Agok. At the end of June and in July, UNISFA monitored the movement northward through the Abyei Area of displaced South Sudanese and Sudanese, most of whom were escaping instability in the area of Wau in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, in South Sudan. Some 1,000 displaced South Sudanese have transited through the Abyei Area towards the Sudan. On 12 August, more than 180 displaced persons from various parts of South Sudan were seen around Dari, near Diffra in the northern sector, making their way towards Sudan. UNISFA and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes provided support for the transiting displaced people.

VI. Status of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

29. On 5 June, UNISFA attended the ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism in Khartoum. Participants discussed, inter alia, the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan of 27 September 2012, as well as joint security matters. The respective Co-Chairs, reaffirming their commitment to the Cooperation Agreement, called for renewed collective efforts and for developing clear implementation matrices with appropriate timelines for the implementation of the Agreement.

30. During the meeting, UNISFA reiterated the challenges faced, appealing for support for the establishment of a notification system of 48 hours' advance notice for aerial patrols and 24 hours for ground patrols. Both parties agreed on the reactivation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism plans to reach full operational capability with the operationalization of the additional sectors in Buram and Malakal, within a period of three months. They also agreed to establish two team sites each in sector 1 (Gok Machar) and sector 2 (Kadugli). UNISFA emphasized that no infrastructural projects were being planned for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism beyond initial operational capability, unless progress was made by both parties on the implementation of an agreement on security arrangements. The parties also agreed that the 10 border-crossing corridors would be opened in two phases, with the operationalization of the first phase involving four such sites. On 21 August, the Ministers of Defence of the Sudan and South Sudan met in Khartoum, on the margins of the visit to the Sudan by the First Vice-President of South Sudan, Taban Deng Gai. At the meeting, outstanding security issues arising from the Joint Political and Security Mechanism meeting of 5 June were discussed. In that connection, UNISFA had yet to receive confirmation of compliance by both sides with the commitments made on 5 June, including on the withdrawal of all forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and support for the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. Furthermore, approval

of ground patrols by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism remained pending, including one patrol to the Tishwin area, where an aerial monitoring mission observed the presence of armed vehicles and a military camp under construction on 8 February 2016.

31. The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism continued to face significant challenges in the implementation of its aerial verification and monitoring mandate. The vast majority of patrols were not conducted owing to the unavailability of aircraft for technical reasons, unfavourable weather conditions or denial of landing permission by the Government of South Sudan, in violation of Security Council resolutions 1990 (2011) and 2024 (2011) and the status-of-forces agreement signed in 2012. The restrictions imposed by the SPLA division in Aweil, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, remained in place, hampering coverage of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone towards the western side of the Abyei Area. Of the 42 planned missions, only 7 were carried out, all of them in the eastern side. To date, the Mechanism has been able to conduct only 80 of the 213 planned aerial monitoring patrols. The aerial patrol missions budgeted for in 2015/16 recorded an increase of 7 per cent compared with the previous fiscal year.

32. The Mine Action Service patrol support teams remained ready to deploy in support of the Mechanism's ground patrols at both sector headquarters in Kadugli, in the Sudan, and in Gok Machar, in South Sudan. In addition, the Mine Action Service delivered integrated ground patrol training for 87 national monitors, international military observers and elements of the Ethiopian force protection unit.

VII. Mission support

33. During the reporting period, the UNISFA military component stood at 4,527 (233 military observers/staff officers and 4,294 troops) against an authorized strength of 5,326. The UNISFA police component stood at 8 police officers against an authorized strength of 50, including 3 women, from three police-contributing countries. The Government of the Sudan has delayed renewal visas for incumbent police officers and refused to issue visas for newly recruited police and corrections personnel since April 2015, affecting the police component's operational capacity to implement its mandated tasks. The total number of civilian staff stood at 237. The Government of the Sudan issued 72 visas for UNISFA personnel, while visas for 14 staff members, 30 military personnel, 32 contactors, 63 Mine Action Service personnel and 2 visitors remained pending. As at 1 September, the Mission had completed the rotation of 1,055 troops through Kadugli airport, conducting 130 rotary-wing round-trip airlifts.

VIII. Financial aspects

34. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/269, appropriated the amount of $268.6 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 6 October 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNISFA amounted to $23.9 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to

$2,339.1 million. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 July 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

35. The promise of a renewed commitment by the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism was clearly discernible at the ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism in Khartoum on 5 June and the meeting of the two Ministers of Defence on 21 August. However, the ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism scheduled for 8 August in Juba was not held. I call upon both parties to maintain the momentum and the constructive spirit of their meeting of 5 June and to realize their commitments.

36. The expressed intention of both sides to submit a report to UNISFA and to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on the completion of the redeployment of forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone has yet to materialize. With the onset of the dry season, it is essential for both Governments to follow through on the commitments that they have made within the framework of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism to fully operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and to facilitate the conduct of its monitoring and verification missions. I would recommend that further investment in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism strictly correspond to the levels of commitment demonstrated by the two Governments in implementing their agreements.

37. I urge the parties to convene regular meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, which has not met since March 2015, to advance the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011. This is long overdue and a necessary initial step in taking forward the intention of the two Governments on joint administration and policing in Abyei while an agreement on Abyei's final status is pending.

38. I request the Sudan and South Sudan to ensure the full and permanent withdrawal of all unauthorized forces from the Abyei Area and to provide security through the creation of the Abyei Police Service. I urge the Government of the Sudan to arrive at alternative oil security arrangements as a substitute for the armed Sudanese police personnel in the Diffra oil complex. I also call upon South Sudan to prevent access to the Abyei Area by armed elements.

39. Within the Abyei Area, I continue to be encouraged by the initiative of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities to hold joint peace committee meetings, and I commend UNISFA for its role in facilitating them. The constructive spirit of those meetings has enabled peaceful reverse migration, capping a relatively peaceful migration season, which witnessed the sharing of pastures and compensation to victims for criminal activities. The increased self-regulation by both communities has helped to minimize disruptive activities violating the peace. The endorsement of the peace committees' work by the traditional chiefs of both sides has built sustainability into local-level peace initiatives. I encourage the two Governments to

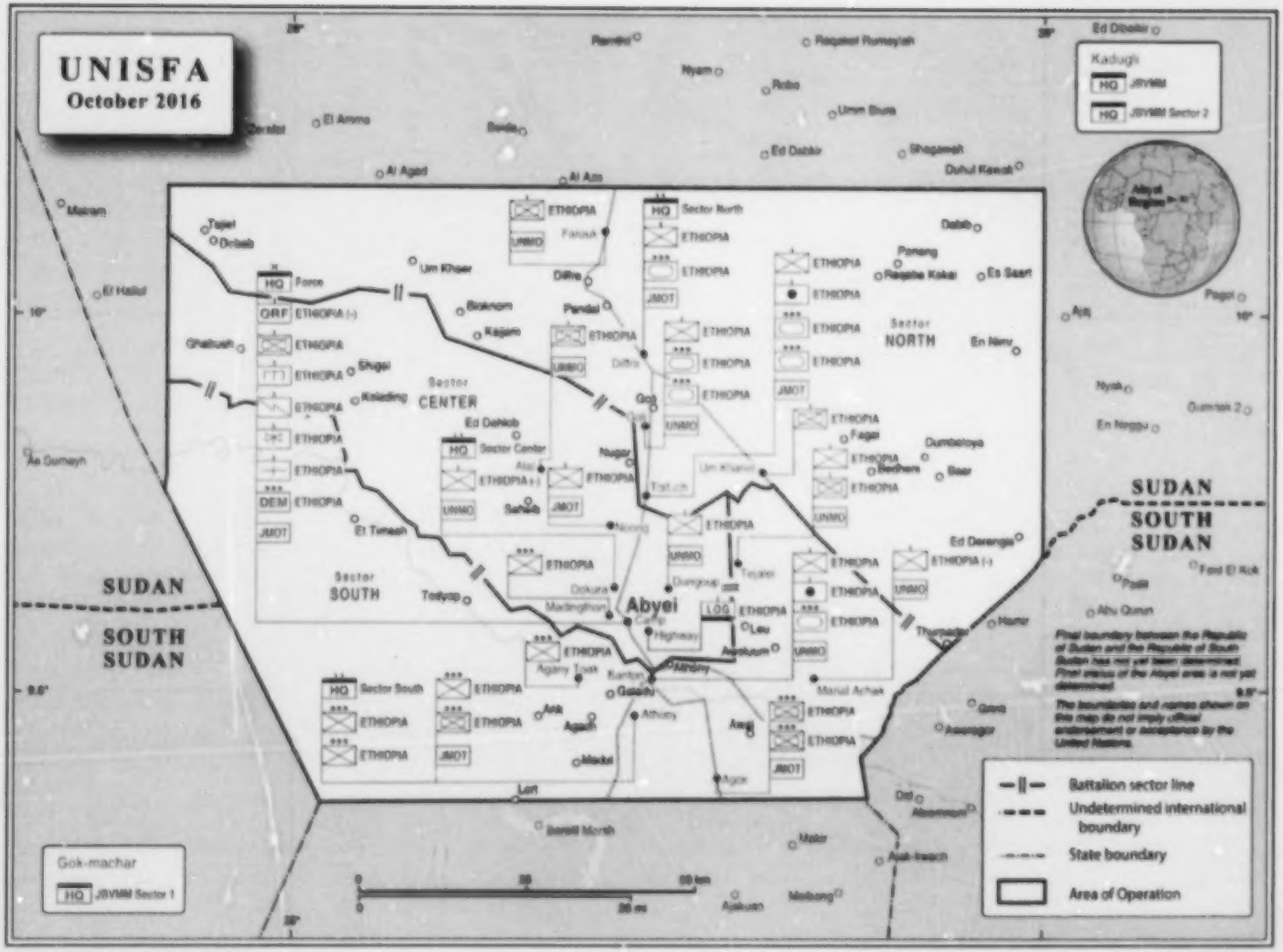
transform those peace initiatives into a viable political process, through the creation of the joint entities envisaged in the Agreement of June 2011.

40. The most visible symbol of the commitment of both communities to reconciliation is the resumption of trading activities at Amiet in the central sector. The common market is a result of sustained UNISFA engagement with the two peace committees at the grass-roots level and has contributed to increasing the accessibility and affordability of commodities in the area. Although the security surrounding the common market was marred by some incidents, the reopening of the common market after a month and a half of temporary suspension is an encouraging indicator of the resilience of the grass-roots peace process. I call upon both sides to maintain that spirit of cooperation when deciding on the future permanent location of the common market.

41. I once again call upon the Sudanese authorities to improve their support to UNISFA. Timely issuance of visas to UNISFA personnel is critical to the mission's effectiveness. In particular, I would like to highlight, with grave concern, that the police component is unable to operate effectively at the current level of police personnel. From April 2015 to late September 2016, the Government of the Sudan did not grant any visa requests for the deployment of new police officers to UNISFA, resulting in UNISFA being unable to replace those who have concluded their tours of duty. This clearly undermined the UNISFA police component, which has played a key role in intercommunal dialogue and upholding the rule of law in the absence of the Abyei Police Service. In this respect, I welcome the fact that, on 6 October, the Government issued 14 entry visas and travel permits for the UNISFA police component.

42. I am encouraged by the significant progress that the two communities have made on issues affecting their people and on reconciliation. Yet much remains to be done to ensure the smooth implementation of the provisions of the Agreements of 20 June 2011 and 27 September 2012 on security arrangements. I therefore recommend the extension of the mandate of UNISFA for another six months to help both Governments to make progress towards the goals that they had set for themselves in those Agreements.

43. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts of my Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander, Major General Hassen Ebrahim Mussa, and all United Nations staff, including staff of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, for their perseverance under challenging circumstances. I also wish to express my gratitude to my former Special Envoy, Haile Menkerios, and my newly appointed Special Envoy, Nicholas Haysom, for taking the political process forward. Finally, I thank the former President of South Africa and Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki; the African Union Commission; the Peace and Security Council of the African Union; and the Government of Ethiopia for their continued support and commitment to the search for peace in the Abyei Area.



Map No. 4467 Rev. 32 UNITED NATIONS
October 2016 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

S/2016/864

United Nations S/2016/865

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a press release issued by the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations on the peace process in Darfur (see annex).

I should be grateful if the letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

On 9 October 2016, the Joint Special Representative of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and Head of UNAMID, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi, issued a statement to the media on peace in Darfur. The statement covered, inter alia, the peace process in Darfur. He stated:

- "I met with Abdul Wahid on July 11 in Paris, where he resides; upon my request he agreed to hold a meeting of the Sudan Liberation Army leadership cadres in mid-September of this year to consider joining the peace process. He asked for UNAMID assistance. I agreed to assist but asked for a formal written letter to process the request. He agreed to write immediately but to date has failed to do so in spite of my writing two reminders."

- "I would like to take this opportunity to call on all Members of the United Nations and respective special envoys of influential countries to exert the necessary pressure on the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid, to join the peace process."

The quoted statement clearly shows the apathy of Abdul Wahid about the suffering of the people he claims to fight for. It is hoped that the international community, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, will redouble their efforts to achieve a lasting peace in Darfur. This noble objective can be achieved only if real concrete pressure is put on the rebel movements to join the peace process and negotiate in good faith.

United Nations S/2016/866

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith, a press release issued by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations on the allegations by Amnesty International on the use of chemical weapons in Darfur (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

On 9 October 2016, the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi issued a statement to the media on the peace process in Darfur. The statement covered, inter alia, the allegations by Amnesty International on the use of chemical weapons in Darfur. Mr. Uhomoibhi stated, inter alia, that:

- In spite of the almost 20,000 UNAMID personnel on the ground in Darfur, none of them had seen any Darfuri showing signs of the use of chemical weapons as described in the report by Amnesty International
- Not one displaced person meeting such description has appeared at any UNAMID team site clinics where they would have naturally gone for help
- Amnesty International claimed to have made calls into the Jebel Marra but did not call any of the almost 20,000 United Nations personnel all over Darfur, including in places such as Sortony and Nertiti within a stone's throw from the places where chemical weapons were reported to have been used
- No one from the leadership of the armed movements in Darfur discussed the use of chemical weapons with him or his deputy during several meetings held in January, April, May, July, August and September 2016

The points listed above are clear evidence from the ground that refutes the unfounded and baseless allegations by Amnesty International. It is hoped that the present statement will put to rest the spurious allegations of the use of chemical weapons in Darfur.

United Nations S/2016/867

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 October 2016
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a concept paper for the meeting of the Security Council to be held on 28 October on the topic: "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security: Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Commonwealth of Independent States" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Concept paper

As a centrepiece of its presidency of the Security Council, the Russian Federation plans to hold a debate on 28 October 2016 on the topic: "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security: Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Commonwealth of Independent States".

In view of the global nature of contemporary challenges and threats, the formulation of the collective approaches needed to tackle them effectively requires an enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security.

In relation to the United Nations this is primarily a function of its universal nature, in terms of both the membership of the Organization and its work, and also of its internationally recognized legitimacy. Regional organizations, in turn, often have a better understanding of the situation in their areas of responsibility, and in many cases, they are equipped with preventive and peacekeeping mechanisms which are adapted to local realities. In this regard it is important for the activities of regional organizations to be directed towards seeking peaceful, political solutions to emerging conflicts.

It is precisely in this context that regular coordination with the main regional partners of the United Nations on issues of the maintenance of international peace and security is highly relevant. For instance, the Security Council regularly holds meetings on cooperation with the African Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union. In recent years there have been reviews of cooperation with the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Union of South American Nations and other regional actors.

As is well known, cooperation between the Organization and its regional partners covers an ever broader range of issues. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding goals have been complemented by efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and illegal flows of small arms and light weapons and to combat cyberterrorism and illegal migration — all of which are areas in which cooperation between the aforementioned organizations and the United Nations has been gaining momentum. This is of critical importance to the maintenance of peace and stability over the vast expanse of Eurasia, and especially in the Central Asian region.

It is precisely in this sphere that three relatively young organizations are operating in the huge region from Eastern Europe to the Far East — the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). These organizations are building their political influence in the world and making a significant contribution to strengthening regional and international security.

The debates will focus on the contribution by CSTO, SCO and CIS to countering threats to peace and security in the region, including combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. The event will also provide an opportunity to reconfirm the commitment of these three organizations to the development of practical cooperation with the United Nations, including its Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

CSTO is a multifaceted structure which is capable of responding firmly to the wide range of contemporary challenges and threats that may be faced by its member States. In this regard, there is good potential for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO in the area of peacekeeping. Within CSTO, intensive work is under way to develop its own peacekeeping capacity, including capacity that may be made available for United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the same time, CSTO is actively contributing to international efforts for post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and for neutralizing the drug threat emanating from the territory of that country.

Its relations with the United Nations are successfully developing in many areas: combating terrorism and drug trafficking, peacekeeping, and control of organized crime. CSTO maintains and develops productive contacts with specialized United Nations structures, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Every two years the General Assembly adopts a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO. A resolution on that topic is scheduled for adoption at the seventy-first session in the context of the consideration of the agenda item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations".

The legal framework for cooperation between the United Nations and SCO on issues of international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was created by the signing in 2010 of a joint declaration on cooperation between the secretariats of the two organizations. Currently SCO and the United Nations cooperate actively in such areas as conflict prevention and resolution, combating terrorism (for this purpose, a regional counter-terrorism structure is operating within SCO), non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, countering transnational crime and illicit drug trafficking and ensuring international information security.

In this context SCO actively supports efforts by the international community and United Nations bodies to restore peace in Afghanistan and consistently advocates maintaining the central coordinating role of the Organization in the Afghan settlement process.

Cooperation in ensuring security and countering contemporary challenges and threats has always been and will remain one of the priority areas of integrated cooperation among member States of CIS.

Constructive cooperation with international organizations is also a key factor in actively countering emerging threats. The CIS States are parties to all the most important international instruments governing cooperation in ensuring security,

promoting disarmament, and countering contemporary challenges and threats and are making a significant contribution to their implementation.

Joint measures are being carried out taking into account the leading role of the United Nations and the need to develop constructive partnerships with other international bodies and their specialized structures, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

The further strengthening and deepening of cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO, SCO and CIS on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations is playing a constructive role in promoting the goals of the Organization, including tackling contemporary challenges and threats. These regional organizations must actively position themselves in terms of using their potential in the interests of the United Nations. At the same time, the United Nations itself should continue to pay the necessary attention to increasing coordination and cooperation with those organizations, in strict observance of the prerogatives of the Organization and its Security Council.

In this context we should like to suggest that Member States present their own vision of ways to strengthen security in the Eurasia region using existing regional mechanisms. It is obvious that stability in this macro-region will be the basis for economic growth and nation-building of the Eurasian countries and we would therefore welcome the views of delegations, including on linking security and development. We are convinced that here, in the United Nations, which has universal legitimacy, we will be able collectively to propose innovative approaches to issues of stabilizing vulnerable regions which may subsequently be applied to other parts of the world which are a focus of the Security Council.

The debate will feature remarks by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. N.N. Bordyuzha, Secretary-General of CSTO, Mr. R.K. Alimov, Secretary-General of SCO, and Mr. S.I. Ivanov, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of CIS. Member States of the aforementioned regional organizations and representatives of other interested States are also invited to take part in the meeting.

United Nations S/2016/868

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for the month of September 2016, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 626th meeting, held in New York on 19 September, on the situation in South Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amr **Aboulatta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-18162 (E) 211016

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 626th meeting, held on 19 September 2016 at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in South Sudan:

The Council,

1. *Takes note* of the briefings provided by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Smail Chergui, and the High Representative of the African Union for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konare, on the situation in South Sudan. The Council also takes note of the statement made by the representative of the Republic of South Sudan;

2. *Recalls* its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in South Sudan, in particular communiqué PSC/PR/1(DCXVI), adopted at its 616th meeting, held on 11 August 2016 in Addis Ababa, as well as the decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the situation in South Sudan, adopted at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held in Kigali on 18 July 2016;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the efforts, under very challenging circumstances, of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-PLUS, including the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, the High Representative of the African Union for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konare, and the Chairman of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, former President Festus Mogae, to restore peace in South Sudan;

4. *Reiterates* that the situation in South Sudan has serious implications for regional peace and stability, and stresses that the only path to the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan is through political dialogue;

5. *Welcomes* the joint communiqué by the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan and the members of the Security Council issued on 4 September 2016 (S/2016/776, annex), following a Security Council field mission to South Sudan. The Council requests the Commission of the African Union to finalize consultations with the Transitional Government of National Unity in order to enable it to undertake its own planned field mission to South Sudan, as soon as possible;

6. *Urges once again* the parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, signed in August 2015, to foster mutual trust, uphold the interest of their country and its people above any other consideration and scrupulously implement the Agreement;

7. *Calls upon* all regional and international stakeholders to support the implementation of the Agreement and to encourage all efforts to ensure peace in South Sudan, in support of the Transitional Government of National Unity. Furthermore, the Council underscores the importance of also addressing the economic and developmental dimensions of the conflict;

8. *Further underscores* the importance of promoting reconciliation, healing and national unity to ensure sustainable peace, stability and development in South Sudan. The Council further stresses the need to hold accountable those who committed atrocities, in order to end and prevent impunity in the future;

9. *Further reiterates* the importance of taking advantage of all available African capabilities to address the situation in South Sudan, in particular the African peacekeeping capacities of member States ready to adequately participate in the proposed Regional Protection Force;

10. *Underlines* the importance of deploying the Regional Protection Force, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2304 (2016) of 12 August 2016 and in total coordination with the Transitional Government of National Unity, with a view to reaching a consensus on all the details related to forming the Force, as well as its deployment, mandate and areas of operation, within the framework of the ruling principles of peacekeeping, and enabling the Force to fulfil its mandate;

11. *Urges* the Transitional Government of National Unity to make the revised matrix on the implementation of the Agreement available to all relevant stakeholders in order to assess the implications thereof;

12. *Welcomes* the readiness of the Arab Republic of Egypt to actively participate in the Regional Protection Force in South Sudan;

13. *Stresses* the necessity of reaching an enhanced coordination between the Security Council, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, IGAD and the African non-permanent members of the Security Council, in order to reach consensus on the details and measures of deploying the Regional Protection Force;

14. *Encourages* the operational coordination between the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the Regional Protection Force in order to achieve peace and stability in South Sudan and avoid any duplication in their mandates;

15. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2016/869

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 15 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 12 October 2016, the United States conducted missile strikes on radar facilities in Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen. Initial assessments show that the radar facilities were destroyed by the strikes.

These limited strikes were in response to anti-ship cruise missile launches perpetrated by Houthi insurgents that threatened United States Navy warships in the international waters of the Red Sea on 9 and 12 October. The targeted radar facilities were involved in the 9 October launches and other recent attacks. These limited and proportionate strikes were conducted to protect United States personnel and ships, and will preserve our freedom of navigation in this important maritime passageway.

These actions were taken with the consent of the Government of Yemen. Although the United States therefore does not believe notification pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations is necessary in these circumstances, the United States nevertheless wishes to inform the Council that these actions were taken consistent with international law.

I request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samantha J. **Power**
United States Ambassador to the United Nations

16-17958 (E) 181016

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